

REMARKS

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview on April 7, 2006 in which the Examiner clarified the arguments in the Office Action mailed January 9, 2006.

Amendments

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended the claims. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 12 and 13

Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12 and 13, as amended, are directed to statutory matter and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claim 2

Claim 2 stands rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner states that the element in claim 2 reciting “output image resolution is less than or equal to the resolution of the set of training images” is not supported in the specification. However, at paragraph 0048, the specification states that the set of training images can be at the resolution defined by the sampling grid. Furthermore, at paragraph 0028, the specification states that the output image resolution can be less than or equal to the sampling grid. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is supported in the specification and respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-16, 18-33 and 35-38

Claims 1-9 and 11-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the combination of U.S. Patent 6,285,804 to Crinon et al and Plaziac, “Interpolation Using Neural Networks.”

Crinon discloses mapping an original low-resolution image and interpolating multiple low-resolution training images to a high resolution grid. Furthermore, Crinon discloses generating a higher resolution image by interpolating pixels missing at grid points from the existing pixels.

Plaziac discloses doubling the resolution of a low resolution image by using a neural network of training images. The output image has twice the resolution of the low resolution image. The training images and low resolution image have the same resolutions and share the same locations on a high resolution grid.

Independent claims 1, 14, 23, 29, and 35 recite snapping pixels in the matching regions to a grid. In contrast, Crinon discloses interpolating training image pixels to the high-resolution grid but does not disclose snapping pixels to a grid as claimed. Furthermore, because Plaziac is directed to doubling the resolution of an image, Plaziac’s training images have the same resolution and are on the same grid points as the original image. Therefore, the Crinon and Plaziac combination cannot render obvious Applicant’s independent claims 1, 14, 23, 29, and 35 and claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-13, 15-16, 18-22, 24-33, 34, and 36-38 that depend on them. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 10

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Crinon and Plaziac in combination with Nagashima et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,275,988.

Nagashime discloses accounting of electronic transactions involving digital images.

Nagashima is directed towards accounting of electronic transactions and contains no disclosure regarding snapping pixels of matching regions to a grid as claimed in claim 1, from which claim 10 depends. Because Nagashima cannot be properly interpreted as

disclosing the claimed terms missing in Crinon and Plaziac, the combination of Crinon, Plaziac and Nagashime cannot render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in claim 10. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-3, 5-16, 18-33 and 35-38 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-8300 x309.

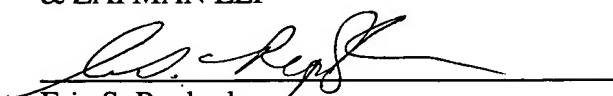
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
& ZAFMAN LLP

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Eric S. Replogle
Registration No. 52,161

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300 x309